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LETTER DATED 22 NOVEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 17 November 1993 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the decisions adopted in the name of the Sanctions Committee established by Security Council resolution 661 (1990) at its 103rd meeting.

I request the circulation of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 17 November 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to call your attention to the decisions adopted by the Sanctions Committee established by Security Council resolution 661 (1990) at its 103rd meeting. At that meeting, the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom and France once again obliged the Committee to adopt decisions aimed at perpetuating the iniquitous embargo imposed on the Iraqi people, even with respect to the basic civilian and humanitarian fields for which exceptions were made in the Security Council resolutions. They did so in order to achieve the self-seeking and narrow political goals of the countries in question while ignoring the suffering their decisions create for the long-suffering Iraqi people. The reason that prompts me to address you once again on the matter of the decisions adopted in the name of this Committee is that, after each of its meetings, I find that the representatives of these three countries have persisted in imposing decisions that have the aim of inflicting further damage on our people and our country in violation of the Charter of the United Nations. We have noted that, at recent meetings, they have proceeded to take no account of the precedents established for the work of the Committee and to show intransigence with regard to a number of humanitarian items similar to those the Committee has approved on previous occasions. At the meeting in question, this caused a number of those representatives of States members of the Committee who have no preconceived political objectives, particularly the representatives of China and Morocco, to object to this selectivity.

Below are some indicative but by no means exhaustive examples of the requests that were rejected, by the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom in particular, at the meeting in question.

1. The representative of the United Kingdom objected to the export to Iraq of used plastic injection machinery for caustic soda for use in the soap industry on the grounds that it was an input to industry. It must surely be obvious to you that soap is a basic civilian item that has a direct impact on the health of Iraqi citizens and that the Security Council resolutions do not prohibit its supply. We are of the view that the objection to these items by the representative of the United Kingdom is an example of selective rejection aimed at increasing the suffering of Iraqi citizens and depriving them of the necessities of life.

2. The representative of the United Kingdom also objected to the supply of brakes for agricultural tractors. The representative of Morocco in the Committee took exception to this, because such items have a connection with agricultural production. You are well aware that these items are of a basic civilian character and make a direct contribution to the agricultural production process and to ensuring food security for the Iraqi people. We can only view the objection of the representative of the United Kingdom as unwarranted and interpret it as having the objective of hampering Iraq's efforts to provide food for all of its citizens in the circumstances of a blanket economic embargo.

Clearly, the Government of the United Kingdom is adopting ignoble positions with a view to the maintenance of the iniquitous embargo against Iraq and is doing so in a vengeful manner that has to do with the continued existence of the United Kingdom's outworn colonialist perception of the Iraqi people.

3. The representatives of the United States and of the United Kingdom objected to the export to Iraq of copper pipes for refrigeration equipment on the grounds that they would serve the country's industrial base. This objection is an example of the diligence shown in depriving the Iraqi people of essential and basic civilian items in their daily lives. As you know, Iraq has a severe summer climate, so that refrigeration and air-conditioning are essential in all areas of life and particularly for the storage of vaccines and foodstuffs and for household uses.

4. The representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom objected to the export to Iraq of water taps, fans and paper products, all of which are basic civilian items that have no military use and no uses that are prohibited even under the iniquitous Security Council resolutions. We see this objection as having no other purpose than to increase the burden of the blanket embargo imposed on the Iraqi people in order to achieve an objective that will inevitably fail, namely that of attempting to undermine stability and harass an industrious people from whose memory such hostile positions as those taken by the United States and the United Kingdom will never be effaced.

5. The representative of the United Kingdom objected to the export to Iraq of pesticides, despite the fact that they are a finished product used for civilian health-related purposes. They are used to maintain the health of Iraqi citizens and ensure a safe environment, and we associate ourselves with the question asked by the representative of Morocco: Do Iraqi citizens not have the right to preserve their health and their safe environment by means of pest control?

The insistence of the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom at this meeting on rejecting requests for the supply of items of a civilian and humanitarian character proves that the policy of maintaining the embargo and increasing its burden on the Iraqi people is, in reality, no more than an unprincipled means of achieving preconcerted political goals to the detriment of our people and not a means of ensuring the implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council. The Committee's action is thereby made to go far beyond the purposes for which it was established. We once again affirm that the continued operation of the Committee in its present manner will mar the reputation of the United Nations and cause peoples to lose all confidence in it. For this reason you must closely examine the nature of the objections raised by the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom. You will find that they stem from self-seeking and narrow policies that bear no relation to the common interests of the international community.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the United Nations.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Baghdad, 17 November 1993

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LETTER DATED 29 NOVEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, during the period from 8 to 15 November 1993, United States aircraft continued to violate Iraqi national airspace for the purpose of surveillance and provocation.

Date	Details
8 November 1993	(a) Northern region: 12 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,500-8,000 m, centred on Mosul, Zakho, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Ayn Zalah and Dokan.
	(b) Southern region: 40 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 7,500-9,000 m, centred on Basra, Nasiriyah, Samarra, Qurnah, Artawi, Lasaf and Khidr.
9 November 1993	(a) Northern region: No hostile air activity was recorded in this region on 9 November 1993.
	(b) Southern region: 42 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 7,000-9,000 m, centred on Nasiriyah, Samarra, Qurnah, Artawi and Busayyah.
	At 1337 hours a TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft conducted a reconnaissance flight over Qurnah, flying at a speed of 600 km/h and at an altitude 20,000 m. It disappeared from sight at 1415 hours over Jabal Sanam, heading for Kuwaiti airspace.
10 November 1993	(a) Northern region: No hostile air activity was recorded in this region on 10 November 1993.
	(b) Southern region: 2 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 8,000 m, centred on Nasiriyah and Artawi.

11 November 1993

(a) Northern region: No hostile air activity was recorded in this region on 11 November 1993.

(b) Southern region: 42 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 7,000-9,000 m, centred on Basra, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Samarra, Artawi, Busayyah, Lasaf, Ushbayjah and Jalibah.

12 November 1993

(a) Northern region: No hostile air activity was recorded in this region on 12 November 1993.

(b) Southern region: 36 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h, centred on Basra, Nasiriyah, Samarra, Artawi and Busayyah.

At 1512 hours the sound barrier was broken by an aggressor formation over Qurnah, flying at an altitude of 8,000 m.

13 November 1993

(a) Northern region: 12 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,500-7,500 m, centred on Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Amadiyah and Zakho.

(b) Southern region: 31 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 7,500-9,000 m, centred on Nasiriyah, Samarra, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Busayyah and Jalibah.

At 1235 hours a TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 km/h and at an altitude 20,000 m conducted a reconnaissance flight, centred on Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Shatrah, southern Diwaniyah and southern Najaf. It disappeared from sight at 1454 hours over Artawi, heading for Kuwaiti airspace.

14 November 1993

(a) Northern region: 29 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,000-8,000 m, centred on Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Zakho and Ayn Zalah.

(b) Southern region: 56 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 5,500-8,500 m, centred on Basra, Nasiriyah, Samarra, Qal'at Salih, Qurnah, Amarah, Artawi, Busayyah, Suq al-Shaykh, Salman, southern Diwaniyah, Ushbayjah and Shatrah.

15 November 1993

(a) Northern region: 22 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 7,500-8,500 m, centred on Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Amadiyah and Zakho.

(b) Southern region: 42 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 7,000-9,000 m, centred on Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Samarra, Artawi, Busayyah, Jalibah and southern Diwaniyah.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 871 (1993)

INTRODUCTION

1. In Security Council resolution 871 (1993), adopted on 4 October 1993, the Secretary-General was requested to report two months after its adoption on progress towards implementation of the United Nations peace-keeping plan for the Republic of Croatia and of all relevant Security Council resolutions, taking into account the position of the Croatian Government, as well as on the outcome of talks within the framework of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. The present report is submitted to the Council in accordance with that request. The Council decided, in resolution 871 (1993), to reconsider the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the light of the report.

I. TALKS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

2. Within the framework of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, talks have continued with the objective of achieving a comprehensive cease-fire in and around the United Nations protected areas in Croatia and initiating discussions thereafter on economic confidence-building steps. These talks are continuing.

3. In the course of their efforts, personnel of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia have maintained close contact with UNPROFOR, whose activities have helped to develop a more positive atmosphere for the talks. Account has also been taken of President Tudjman's "Peace Initiative", which was circulated as a document of the Security Council (S/26681, appendix) on 2 November 1993. The "Peace Initiative" addresses the situations in the United Nations protected areas and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and future cooperation in the area of the former Yugoslavia. In so far as the situations in the United Nations protected areas is concerned, efforts are already under way on many of the issues raised by President Tudjman, particularly the search for agreement on a cessation of hostilities; resumption of the work of the Joint Commission; and normalization "of overall social and economic life in the UNPAs" and cooperation amongst the parties.

4. Following exploratory contacts by personnel of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, and with the good offices of the Governments of France and Germany, talks chaired by the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia were held from 1 to 3 November. At those talks a three-step strategy was accepted: first, discussion of a cease-fire; secondly, consideration of economic reconstruction; and finally, discussion of political questions. Some progress has already been made towards a cease-fire and in identifying economic matters of mutual interest.

5. The key elements of the cease-fire agreement under discussion are the separation of forces along the confrontation lines, with UNPROFOR interposing itself between the two sides and monitoring heavy weapons on both sides. In areas where there would be withdrawal, UNPROFOR would be interposed between the forces, with a degree of give and take over the key features of the Peruca Dam, Miljevici plateau, Zemunik airport and Maslenica bridge, which would remain under Croatian control, and the three villages near Maslenica and a key feature overlooking Obrovac, which would return to Serb control.

6. The main areas of economic interest to the two parties discussed at the above talks related to infrastructure and communications, energy and water supply. The parties concurred that there should be an agreement regarding the global use of energy systems, specifically the oil pipeline and the power plant in Obrovac. A priority was water supply and there was agreement to put the entire water system into operation and to restore the oil pipeline and the energy supply system. The Croatian side said that they were prepared to provide oil, petrol, seed and fertilizers at commercial prices to the Serbs in Krajina. The parties concurred that joint commissions should be established to examine and finalize practical arrangements concerning these questions.

7. The priority for the Croatian side was the road from Zagreb to Slavonski Brod, via Okucani. They indicated that following the implementation of the cease-fire, Zemunik airport and Maslenica bridge would be opened for use by both sides. The Serb side submitted that a route should be opened between Western Slavonia and Hungary and that road and railway traffic should be opened between Western Slavonia and Baranja, via Osijek. The Serb side also asked for access to the open sea from Rovanjska harbour and use of a part of Zadar harbour.

8. Further talks were held on 23 and 24 November and on 26 and 28 November. On 28 November the Croatian side said that with one modification they could sign the cease-fire proposal. A number of modifications proposed by the Serb side remained on the table and they said that in the current political climate, with impending elections (on 12 and 19 December), they could not sign the document without the changes they had proposed. The Co-Chairmen will assess the next moves in their efforts to bring about a cease-fire agreement. In the meantime, the parties agreed to establish a military Joint Commission to continue practical work on outstanding areas of dispute on the lines of separation to be used once the cease-fire is implemented.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING PLAN

9. Following the adoption of resolution 871 (1993), UNPROFOR reinforced its two-track approach of providing support for the talks sponsored by the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and promoting step-by-step actions in the United Nations protected areas. The latter have been aimed at establishing, through the reduction of tensions, conditions favourable to a comprehensive cease-fire. UNPROFOR has also sought to assist over matters such as the activities of the Joint Commission established under resolution 762 (1992), and the "confidence-building measures" referred to in resolution 871 (1993).

10. There have been moves in all United Nations protected areas towards achieving local cease-fires. These range from a signed, formal cease-fire agreement in Sector East to "gentlemen's agreements" - oral and unsigned, but implemented - in the other three sectors, in each of which discussions are continuing towards formal agreements. Sector East exemplifies the step-by-step approach, in that a local cease-fire was first signed and implemented and was then followed by the establishment of local joint commissions to investigate violations. With these first steps in place, the Sector Commander has now proposed to each side the creation of zones of separation between their forces. Such local cease-fires have, in each sector, been supported by the establishment of new observation posts, additional patrols by United Nations military observers, and the installation of hot lines with, and between, the two sides. The consequence of this has been a discernible reduction in tension and violations throughout the United Nations protected areas.

11. Unfortunately, the deployment on 21 October (and subsequent withdrawal on 14 November) of Croatian "special police" in the areas of Sirinci and Masicka in Sector West heightened tensions there and caused a suspension of the negotiations which had begun a few days earlier. The "special police" elements were withdrawn after prolonged negotiations at the battalion, sector and ministerial levels. Unfortunately, also, UNPROFOR has not yet been able to achieve a cessation of the practice, prohibited in the original United Nations peace-keeping plan, of carrying weapons other than side-arms in the Serb-controlled southern part of this sector.

12. In accordance with the Force Commander's directions, sector commanders have taken a number of other steps on the military side to enhance cooperation and reduce tensions, including the opening of several new crossing-points and the enhancement of UNPROFOR's border-monitoring capability. They have managed to initiate, and then maintain, face-to-face meetings between the two sides' military commanders in, and adjacent to, all sectors and have pursued every opportunity to try to persuade them to move to greater cooperation.

13. In Sector South, small steps towards cooperation on a localized basis in humanitarian and economic matters have been possible, but elsewhere both sides have refused to meet, or have broken off scheduled meetings, because local leaders have said that they have felt unable to discuss such matters in the absence of progress at higher levels on security, economic and humanitarian matters.

14. On the positive side, in the village of Podlapaca, which contains the largest remaining concentration of Croats in Sector South, UNPROFOR has managed to stabilize a situation which had begun to deteriorate rapidly after the September 1993 incursion by the Croatian Army into the Medak pocket and the atrocities committed there. A full company of the Czech battalion has been deployed in this group of hamlets in the hills above Korenica, a United Nations Civilian Police (UNCIVPOL) station has been opened, and senior UNPROFOR officials have visited frequently, also sensitizing the Serb authorities to the need to provide protection. Comparable activities have occurred in some other areas.

15. It has been an increasingly significant task of UNPROFOR to identify those most in need of humanitarian help and to ensure its delivery to them. A joint humanitarian cell has been established, for instance, in Sector North, bringing together all elements of UNPROFOR, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in order to identify the most needy in terms, especially, of food and medical aid. UNCIVPOL and the battalions are now heavily engaged in identifying and assisting those in greatest need. Comparable endeavours are under way in the other sectors.

III. OBSERVATIONS

16. As the developments reported above indicate, various initiatives are under way which, with the cooperation of the parties, could pave the way for implementation of the United Nations peace-keeping plan (S/23280, annex III). Progress is slow and is quickly halted if one side attacks territory held by the other. Nevertheless, in view of the developments reported by my Special Representative since my report of 20 September 1993 (S/26470), I do not find it necessary to recommend that the Security Council reconsider UNPROFOR's mandate at this time. If, however, the international community's very substantial commitment to peacemaking and peace-keeping in Croatia is to be sustained, it is essential that the two sides intensify their efforts for the achievement of a cease-fire agreement, for the institution of practical measures of economic cooperation and for the negotiation of a lasting political settlement. I also appeal to them to extend their cooperation to UNPROFOR in its endeavours to improve conditions in the United Nations protected areas.

17. In conclusion, I pay tribute to my Special Representative, Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg, to the Force Commander, General Jean Cot, and to the personnel of UNPROFOR and the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, who are labouring incessantly, in difficult conditions, to promote implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council and to help the people on the ground.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 42
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 1 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter dated 30 November 1993 from a member of the Presidency (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 30 November 1993 from a member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Secretary-General

The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a Member State of the United Nations, has been a victim of brutal aggression for already 18 months. The hardships and suffering of the civilian population are immense, since the aggressor has been using all means to accomplish his objectives. All forms of crimes have been committed here, including the crime of genocide, the major crime of all the crimes. The aggressor, whenever he can, deprives the citizens of Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina of regular food, energy and water, as well as industrial raw materials. It is known that the application of these methods is, by itself, a war crime. On the other hand, legal authorities of our State respond to all the appeals of the international community to have these problems overcome to the extent possible by peaceful and political means. In this regard, our cooperation is present at the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia at Geneva.

Simultaneously with the diplomatic talks going on at Geneva, the citizens of Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina are being exposed to intensified aggression and deprived of all the minimal requirements for living. Please alleviate the suffering of our citizens right now to avoid the eventual hypocrisy of the Geneva Summit.

(Signed) Stjepan Kljuić
Member of the Presidency
Acting President

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Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 114 (a)
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 30 November 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report on the problems and difficulties in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has already submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (see annex).

The report points to the extremely grave situation of children in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia caused by the sanctions, which have adverse effects on the implementation of the Convention. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expresses its hope that the Committee, upon a comprehensive review of the situation in the area of the protection of the rights of children, will make appropriate recommendations with regard to the lifting of unjust sanctions imposed against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 114 (a), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

R E P O R T

ON THE PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

1. Children of all nations and races are the future of mankind, token of love, patience and hope, but also quite often the most vulnerable category and most often victims of conflicts and wars waged by their elders.

2. According to the 1991 population census, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has a population of 10.5 million, 3.2 million of which are children aged under 18 meaning that 40.4% of the population of the FR of Yugoslavia are children and young people under 24*. The FR of Yugoslavia has further provided shelter to a large number of refugees coming from the war-torn former Yugoslav republics. According to the latest available figures, there are currently 548,310 registered refugees, 495,000 of which in the Republic of Serbia (5% of its total population) and 53,310 in Montenegro (8.5% of the total population of that republic). 230,000 refugee children under 18 live in the FR of Yugoslavia and over 10,000 babies have been born to refugees in the FR of Yugoslavia so far.

3. Unconstitutional separation, secession by a number of the republics which had been part of the former Yugoslavia, followed by the effects of the war in its neighborhood, along with UN Security Council sanctions contained in resolutions 757, 787 and 820, have rapidly and dramatically worsened the social and economic situation in FR of Yugoslavia.

All forms of international trade, scientific-technical and cultural co-operation have been broken off. Sanctions objectively mean a total international isolation of the FR of Yugoslavia.

From 1990 to 1993, the FR of Yugoslavia registered the cumulative loss of some US$ 25 billion in its social product (GNP) relative to 1989.

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* The 1991 census was conducted in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The presented data refer to the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro, which by the promulgation of the Constitution on 27 April 1992, became constituent units of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Also, all other comparative data presented in this report pertaining to the period before 27 April 1992, are joint data for the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro which were at the time within the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Unemployment is rising at an alarming rate. In addition to 760,000 unemployed persons, there are 700,000 persons (out of a total of 2.3 million) at forced leaves and many of those are faced with job losses due to the devastating effects of the sanctions. Regardless of the steps taken by the competent authorities, all this has triggered hyperinflation currently estimated to be running at an unbelievable 1% an hour.

4. The volume of total production has been drastically reduced, the per capita GNP dropped from US$ 2,330 in 1991 to US$ 1,750 in 1992, while, according to estimates, it will further decline by at least 30% in 1993.

Real monthly earnings average around US $ 12, while average pensions do not exceed US $ 8. The living standards of some 85% of the population in the FR of Yugoslavia have plummeted to the point of mere subsistence, and currently about 50% of the population are classified as persons in need of social welfare. The number of suicides, particularly among old people, is rapidly rising.

The living standards of children in the FR of Yugoslavia have generally deteriorated. Neither parents nor the state can provide adequate living conditions for the physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development of children under the present circumstances.

The right of every child to social security has been put in danger, primarily due to the shortage of funds needed for maintaining the attained coverage standard. The status of disabled children, in particular, has deteriorated considerably.

We wish to bring to attention also the fact that 40,000 children of Yugoslav workers abroad, who have qualified for family allowance under relevant bilateral social security agreements entered into by Yugoslavia and certain countries where our migrant workers live, have lost that right, despite the fact that the point at issue is social benefits which should not be subject to sanctions.

Hyperinflation, as a result of sanctions, has totally devalued the right to various forms of benefits and relevant entitlement (family allowance, maternity allowance, etc.), so that those forms of child care stop short of even providing the minimum security for the most destitute families.

Pre-school institutions face the problem of many children leaving, for their parents cannot afford the cost of care in the drastically deteriorated living conditions. Only 6.5% of all children being looked after in pre-school institutions get the

adequate number of meals. At compulsory primary schools a small number of children (some 30%) get a snack which is very low in calories. Calory intake of the overall population was reduced by some 30% in the 1990 - March 1993 period. The diet of no less than 20% of the population is below subsistence level. This is why 50% of all schoolchildren are suffering from anaemia in Belgrade.

5. To get a more rounded-off picture of the severe living conditions of children in the FR of Yugoslavia today, let us mention that most of the FR of Yugoslavia with the exception of the coastal belt in Montenegro, is situated in the region marked by continental climate with harsh winter and average daily temperatures in the five winter months ranging from 0 degrees C to 10 degrees C, and often dropping even to - 20 degrees C.

Due to the shortage of energy-generating materials, hospitals, kindergartens and schools have not yet started heating even though air temperature in early November was around 0 degrees C. This will have unforeseeable consequences for the general health of the population and particularly for the vulnerable children population.

6. The outlined economic situation in the FR of Yugoslavia has also led to the country being unable to take appropriate measures to protect the environment, which has a bearing particularly on children as the most sensitive population category. Account should also be taken of the fact that this situation, as environmental pollution does not stop at state boundaries, has a negative impact not only on children and other population in the FR of Yugoslavia, but can also affect life in neighboring countries and elsewhere.

7. As a result of the accumulated problems, the status of children in the FR of Yugoslavia has also worsened to the point where it represents a gross violation of children's rights guaranteed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The social climate for the children to grow, defined in the Preamble of the Convention as a prerequisite for normal development, is marked not by happiness and peace, but rather by fear, uncertainty, hostility, grief and insecurity. All this causes severe mental and psychological stress in children.

8. Sanctions are most severely and most evidently affecting the area of health care.

The state of health of population of the FR of Yugoslavia, and mothers and children in particular, is deteriorating every month regardless of the very well-developed network of health institutions and the totally free health services available to the public so far. This network comprises 191 public health homes; 23 state-of-the-art medical centers; 20 specialized health institutions and 95 hospitals and clinical hospitals employing 92,000, including 21,000 doctors, 4,478 dentists and 2,479 pharmacologists.

This was recently pointed out also by the representative of the World Health Organization, Dr Hanu Uori who estimated with pessimism that "the current health situation in the FR of Yugoslavia is tantamount to a disaster, mortality has gone up 10% due to sanctions, the number of TBC cases has tripled, children are dying of malnutrition and for lack of medicines, all of which could have been avoided".

The health care budget, which in 1990 amounted to 4.5% of the GSP (cca US 50 per capita in real terms), went up in 1993 to 13%, but dropped to US$ 30 per capita in real terms so that now it cannot provide even for the minimum primary health care of the public, particularly not for the most vulnerable groups.

The pharmaceutical industry, once able to meet most of domestic needs, cannot continue production in view of its high import dependency (over 95%), since certain members of the Sanctions Committee object to the imports of raw materials.

According to the estimates of the World Health Organization, the number of neuroses in the population has increased by some 600%. Experts predict a rise in the number of children and young people with mild and curable as well as with more serious mental disorders and say this will have unforeseeable negative consequences.

The death among infants, in Belgrade alone, has increased over the past year (1991-1992) from 14% to 16% and has continued to grow also in 1993. The number of risky pregnancies and babies born prematurely has increased. The Premature Children Institute had treated 1,000 such children by 1 November 1993. In the first six months of 1993, 173 children developed sepsis, 17 meningitis, 41 came down with salmonellosa, 412 contracted pneumonia, which represents a 50% increase on the corresponding 1992 figure.

The mortality due to infectious diseases which accounted for 7% in the 1991-1992 period, went up by 214% in 1992 and in the first half of 1993. The number of TBC cases relative to 1990 increased by 8.5%. The number of epidemics went up by 352% in hospitals.

In late 1992 and in the course of 1993, an increased number of children with rheumatic fever was registered particularly among refugee children.

Treatment of children suffering from chronic respiratory and renal diseases, diabetes and malignant diseases for months and years, has become the "nightmare" of their doctors and a tragedy for their parents, due to the shortage of expensive imported drugs. Anyone who meets those parents will realize how deep is the abyss of human despair.

The compulsory vaccination coverage of schoolchildren declined from 91.29% in 1988 to 84.2% in 1992 for Di-Te-Per; from 93.3% to 84.45% for polio; and from 91.79% to 80.64% for measles, with the continuing downward trend. The morbilli epidemic in the capital of the Republic of Montenegro, Podgorica alone afflicted 10,000 children. The main reasons, apart from the vaccine shortage, are fuel shortages, inadequate vaccine storage conditions due to obsolete equipment and impossibility of procuring spare parts.

Due to shortages of reagents and materials for clinical and microbiological laboratories, most diagnoses are established on the basis of clinical and other symptoms. The Pathology Institute registered an increase in incorrect diagnoses from 19% in 1991 to 35% in 1992.

In the first five months of 1993, 44 babies died at cardio-surgical children's wards in two Belgrade and one Novi Sad clinical hospitals, as they could not be operated on for lack of needed materials, and as children with heart disease could not be sent abroad for further treatment, and the number of operations was reduced to one or two a week. The operation waiting list at the Mother and Child Institute in Belgrade includes the names of some 300 to 400 helpless children. Two clinical hospital centers in Belgrade and in Nis alone postponed some 3,600 operations for lack of materials in 1992.

The drastic situation of sick children and their parents brought on by sanctions are painfully illustrated by the fact that parents of 7 children treated for leukemia at the Belgrade Mother and Child Institute stated in the first 5 days of November 1993 that they wished to cancel further treatment as they were unable to afford the cost which had been the exclusive concern of the society in the period preceding the sanctions.

The same Institute cannot provide effective treatment for some 400 children suffering from hemophilia and to some 30 children with phenyl-ketonuria.

The general population is threatened with possible larger-scale infections due to the lacking water purification agents. In certain areas, as Dragacevo, western Serbia for instance, a large number of people developed infections after using bacteriologically unsafe water, which can also be termed as kind of local epidemic.

9. Particularly vulnerable is the position of refugee children in the FR of Yugoslavia; while they have integrated in the educational and health care systems, they suffer numerous negative consequences due to their abruptly broken childhood and exclusion from their former milieux. With all the concern by state to provide for this fairly large category of children adequate accommodation and living conditions, the overall grave economic situation has had an even harsher impact on them, so that they have been more exposed

to complaints of a mental nature, more prone to juvenile delinquency, alcohol and drug-abuse, and even to prostitution attended by attempted suicides.

10. Sanctions have affected in many a way also the area of education, culture and information, regardless of those areas not having been directly mentioned in the relevant UN SC resolutions. A total break-off of international co-operation in those areas, according to the assessment by UNICEF, will have unforeseeable consequences for the future generations of children in the FR of Yugoslavia. Secondary and higher education that was free before the sanctions were imposed for all full-time pupils and students, now has to be paid up to 20% of the total cost by students whose parents find this difficult to bear. In addition, the conditions in which children attend school in Yugoslavia today are more than inhuman, due to the already mentioned heating problem.

Special schools for deaf, blind and retarded children, attended by some 1,000 little pupils, are not in a position to continue providing even the indispensable orthopedic aids, and, as a result, those children have joined the particularly vulnerable group. They further lack the basic teaching aids, meaning they have been deprived of even the most essential prerequisites for their education.

Sanctions are having a very negative impact as well on education of children of Yugoslav migrant workers abroad. In some countries with which bilateral agreements have been entered into - France, Germany, Switzerland - our children are banned from attending courses in their native language, as the embargo on importation of textbooks and other books from the FR of Yugoslavia in force, schools running supplementary courses are being closed down and the supply of funds required for native language courses for Serbian and Montenegrin children - cut off. Moreover, high school textbooks in the FR Germany and France abound in discriminatory references to the Serbs and Montenegrins and recent events in former Yugoslavia. The latest example is the information material "War in the Balkans" for 10th-form students in Hamburg, which accuses the Serbian and Montenegrin people for the events in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in an unprincipled, inaccurate and tendentious manner, thus fuelling discrimination prohibited by many United Nations conventions.

11. The right of a child to rest and leisure, as well as to participation in cultural life and the arts has been jeopardized on account of the drastic drop in the living standards of the public in the conditions of sanctions. The possibility of putting on foreign children's films, printing of foreign children's books, publication of foreign children's magazines, have been denied. The most drastic example is the ban placed after 80 years on the printing of Mickey Mouse cartoon strips and other Disney heroes,

whose adventures were followed by several generations in this country, but also in the countries of what is known as Western democracy that have by their measures isolated the children of the FR of Yugoslavia.

12. The above description of the situation, fragmentary though it is, reflects the extremely serious conditions facing the population of the FR of Yugoslavia, and children in particular, including refugees who share the common lot brought about by the mentioned resolutions of the world community and sanctions set out therein.

This warrants the following question: did the countries signatories of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in passing the mentioned resolution, have in mind Art., 2., para 2 of the Convention, namely that:

"2. STATES PARTIES SHALL TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE CHILD IS PROTECTED AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION OR PUNISHMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE STATUS, ACTIVITIES, EXPRESSED OPINIONS, OR BELIEFS OF THE CHILD'S PARENTS, LEGAL GUARDIANS, OR FAMILY MEMBERS".

Did the countries signatories of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in passing those resolutions, also bear in mind other articles of that Convention, namely Art. 4 (guaranteeing the right of the child within the framework of international co-operation); Article 6 (the child's right to life and development); Article 8 (the right of the child to preserve his or her identity); Article 13 (the right to freedom of expression and freedom of information); Article 17 (the right to information from international sources); Article 22 (care for refugee children); Article 23 (special care for disabled children); Article 24 (the right of the child to the highest standard of health and medical care); Article 26 (the child's right to benefit from social security); Article 27 (the right to an adequate living standard); Art. 28 and 29 (the right to education); and Article 31 (the right of the child to rest and leisure).

* * *

By acceding to and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the FR of Yugoslavia has accepted to act in conformity with all its provisions and has in all its activities, both in passing domestic legislature and in its international co-operation, complied with the principles set out therein. Having significantly expanded the rights envisaged by the Convention in its national legislation, the FR of Yugoslavia is now, through no fault of its own, no longer in a position to apply the basic provisions of the Convention due to the effect of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions ratified by most of the signatory countries of the Convention.

The authorities in the FR of Yugoslavia, including a large number of non-governmental organizations, have repeatedly informed the UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the World Health Organization and the World Human Rights Conference in Vienna on the status of children in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the course of this year. This has been also commented on by the representatives of UNICEF, the World Health Organization and UNHCR on several occasions so far.

UNITED
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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/26831
1 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 1 DECEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions, I have the honour to forward herewith the text of the statement made by the delegation of Brazil on 23 November 1993 in the consultations prior to the issuance on that date of the presidential statement in connection with the consideration by the Security Council of the item "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait" (S/26787).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ronaldo Mota SARDENBERG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Brazil
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement made by the delegation of Brazil on 23 November 1993 in the consultations prior to the issuance of the presidential statement in connection with the Council's consideration of the item "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait" (S/26787)

In connection with the draft presidential statement on the recent border incidents between Iraq and Kuwait, I wish to state the following.

Brazil has consistently supported United Nations action to ensure full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait. Any attempt to question that sovereignty and territorial integrity must be rejected as unacceptable.

As we have made clear on previous occasions when this matter was taken up, it is the understanding of the Brazilian Government that the decisions taken by the Security Council with respect to the international boundary between Iraq and Kuwait in resolution 687 (1993), or as a result of that resolution, as is the case in the proposed presidential statement, can only be justified in the light of the exceptional and unique circumstances in which those decisions were taken and do not establish a legal precedent.

UNITED
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Security Council

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A/48/706
S/26832
1 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 54
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 30 November 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 30 November 1993 from Mr. Osman Ertug addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the recent upsurge in the negative statements made by the Greek Cypriot side against the package of confidence-building measures (CBMs) currently being discussed in Cyprus. The unconstructive attitude displayed by these statements confirms that, despite initial appearances to the contrary, the Greek Cypriot side does not actually accept the package. Below are some specific examples:

1. In answer to a question as to whether he would accept the landing of Turkish Cypriot aircraft registered in Turkey at the Nicosia International Airport (NIA), in an interview with a correspondent of the Turkish daily "Milliyet" on 6 October 1993 in New York, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, the leader of the Greek Cypriot administration, said "no...if the question implies that the so-called Turkish Cypriot airlines would have the right to land at NIA, my answer is 'no'..." Mr. Clerides added that, when he became aware of this, he had written a letter to Your Excellency "clarifying" his position on the matter.

2. Mr. Spyros Kyprianou, the leader of the Greek Cypriot political party "DIKO" and one of the political allies of Mr. Clerides both during and after the last elections, described the CBMs as "terrifying" and expressed his strong opposition to the contacts carried out by the two teams of UN experts in Cyprus in connection with the CBM package by calling their visit "untimely and without basis" (Greek Cypriot daily "AGON" dated 28 October 1993).

In another instance, Mr. Kyprianou repeated his unequivocal opposition to the CBMs by stating "we were opposed to the CBMs to begin with. After the meeting with UN experts we saw also practical obstacles proving the drawbacks of the CBMs. We are of the view that these CBMs cannot be implemented" (Greek Cypriot daily "Eleftherotipia" dated 28 October 1993).

3. Another Greek Cypriot political party leader, Dr. Vassos Lyssarides of "EDEK", has called for the outright rejection of the CBMs. Referring to a unanimous decision of the Greek Cypriot National Council, Dr. Lissarides said "there is no alternative other than turning down the CBMs in accordance with this decision" (Greek Cypriot daily "Filelefttheros" dated 31 October 1993).

4. In a letter he sent to Mr. Clerides, the Secretary-General of the Greek Cypriot Communist party "AKEL", Mr. Christofias, has criticized the Greek Cypriot leader for "having accepted the reopening of Nicosia International Airport in return for the opening of the closed part of Varosha" (Greek Cypriot press of 3 November 1993). According to the Greek Cypriot daily "AGON" of 28 October 1993, Mr. Christofias also stated that "his doubts about the CBMs increased after meeting with the UN experts".

5. Mr. Alexis Ghalanos, President of the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives, joined the other leaders in rejecting the CBMs by describing them as "unacceptable" (Greek Cypriot daily "Filelefttheros" dated 10 November 1993). Similarly, the leader of the Greek Cypriot Liberal Party, Mr. Nikos Rolandis, has described the CBMs as "unacceptable" for the Greek Cypriot side ("Filelefttheros" dated 7 November 1993).

6. Virtually the entire Greek Cypriot press has been voicing strong opposition to the CBMs. A typical example is the following extract from an article in "Agon" newspaper of 28 October 1993:

> "As details of the implementation of the UN proposed CBMs are becoming known, opposition to them among the Greek Cypriots is growing to the point of horror."

Commenting on the CBMs, "Eleftherotipia" newspaper of the same date pointed to the "great danger" posed by the package; while "Filelefttheros" underlined that "after meeting with the UN experts, Greek Cypriot party leaders successively expressed their worries and disappointment" in this regard.

It is our firm belief that this mounting opposition to the CBMs voiced by the Greek Cypriot side, leadership and media alike, is a typical example of the insincere negotiating tactics of the other side, of pretending to accept something when it actually does not. It is also indicative the difficulties involved in engaging in result-oriented negotiations with the Greek Cypriot side for reconciliation and a viable solution.

I would be grateful if the present letter is circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUG
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26833
3 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 DECEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its enclosure, which contains a letter dated 14 November 1993, sent to the President of the Security Council by Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 3 December 1993 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the letter addressed to the President of the Security Council for the month of November 1993, by Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in connection with the positive response of the Turkish Cypriot side to the extension of the unmanning agreement to other areas of the buffer zone in Cyprus, as called for by the Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council (S/25912 dated 9 June 1993) and endorsed by Council resolution 839 (1993) of 11 June 1993.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its enclosure were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

Letter dated 14 November 1993 from Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the call made to both sides by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in paragraph 48 of his report (S/25912) to the Security Council (also endorsed by Council resolution 839 (1993) of 11 June 1993) to cooperate with the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) in order to extend the unmanning agreement of 1989 to all areas of the buffer zone controlled by the United Nations where the two sides are in close proximity, and to reiterate that the Turkish Cypriot side is ready and willing to take this matter up with UNFICYP and to cooperate in this respect with all good will.

It will be recalled that the positive stance of the Turkish Cypriot side in this regard was also conveyed to the United Nations by our Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence, Mr. Kenan Atakol, at his meeting with the United Nations Deputy Special Representative in Cyprus, Mr. Gustave Feissel, on 5 November 1993.

In paragraph 48 of the above-mentioned report, the Secretary-General urges both sides "to take reciprocal measures to lower the tension, including mutual commitments, through UNFICYP". We believe that discussion on these issues could start without delay between the Turkish Cypriot side and UNFICYP in order to reach a mutually acceptable arrangement in accordance with the relevant paragraph of the Secretary-General's report.

At a time when confidence-building measures are being discussed, violations of the buffer zone by the Greek Cypriot demonstrators, in complete defiance of the Secretary-General's call on the two parties to exercise maximum restraint in this regard, have continued unabated, resulting in a further deepening of the crisis of confidence between the two peoples on the island. Demonstrations along the borders were intensified during the Commonwealth Summit Conference held in South Cyprus. There is no doubt that these incidents were incited by the authorities of the Greek Cypriot administration. In view of the well-planned and organized nature of these demonstrations and border violations, and the failure of the Greek Cypriot police to curb them, it can be safely pointed out that these acts are connived at by the Greek Cypriot authorities, in order to create artificial tension on the island and to keep the Cyprus issue alive on the agenda of the world community.

These are no doubt important matters which should be borne in mind when considering the issue of confidence-building measures. In addition to the above, the negative attitude of the Greek Cypriot side towards the confidence-building measures, as evidenced by the recent public statements by Mr. Glafkos Clerides and his Government spokesman, have rendered the uneasy path towards reconciliation and confidence-building even more difficult to pursue.

It is accepted by all concerned that the Cyprus dispute is one between the two communities and that a settlement, which is acceptable to both sides, must be reached after free negotiations on an equal footing. The Turkish Cypriot

side has amply demonstrated its good will by cooperating with the United Nations authorities and experts with regard to the confidence-building measures and other issues, despite its preoccupation with the forthcoming general election in December.

The Security Council should, therefore, call upon the Greek Cypriot side to desist from all activities which are not conducive to a peaceful settlement and to reciprocate to the good will and positive stance shown by the Turkish Cypriot side by engaging in meaningful and constructive dialogues with regard to the confidence-building measures, including the extension of the 1989 unmanning agreement to all parts of the buffer zone where forces of the two sides remain in close proximity, with a view to ensuring that there is no further increase in tension which would jeopardize efforts to reach an amicable settlement between the two sides.

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAŞ
President

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26834
2 December 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 30 NOVEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE, SPAIN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to inform you of the text in French of the statement given by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Mr. Willy Claes, on behalf of the European Union, at the meeting held in Geneva, on 29 November 1993, concerning the former Yugoslavia.

We should be grateful if you could arrange for the text of the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed)

Juan A. YAÑEZ-BARNUEVO
Permanent Representative
of Spain

(Signed)

Jean-Bernard MERIMEE
Permanent Representative
of France

(Signed)

Sir David HANNAY, KCMG
Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT TO THE GENEVA MEETING ON THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

(29 November 1993)

[Original: French]

As each day passes, Bosnia and Herzegovina sink further into a humanitarian catastrophe. Despite more than two years of efforts, there is no lasting political solution in sight to the conflicts which have torn the former Yugoslavia apart. On the contrary, there is a growing risk that the hostilities in the Croatian territories under the UNPROFOR mandate will recur.

The European Union can no longer stand by and watch these developments without reacting. We prefer to believe that there are chances for peace to which the populations aspire. We have therefore come to Geneva with a plan of action, capable of meeting the current challenges and of paving the way to a comprehensive solution. It is a matter of combining all the means and all the wishes to allow humanitarian aid to pass through without interference, to reach a territorial solution in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to find a modus vivendi for the territories in Croatia under UNPROFOR mandate. In short, conditions must be created immediately to enable, if not a complete solution, at least the bases for a comprehensive solution.

I welcome the presence of Mr. Stoltenberg, Mrs. Ogata and Generals Cot and Briquemont. Their devotion, as that of Lord Owen, deserves our praise. Their participation in our work bears witness to the support that the United Nations and its Secretary-General contribute to the action that brings us together today. Similarly, I welcome the observers, members of the Steering Committee of the Conference. Without the support of the entire international community, our efforts will be in vain. However, I would like to be clear about one matter: the final solution will depend on the parties themselves. It is their fate that matters, and it is for them to understand and to draw the necessary conclusions.

Since the end of September, negotiations between the Bosnian parties have been deadlocked. Negotiations must be resumed and must be concluded as soon as possible. The outcome of Geneva, as crystallized in HMS Invincible, continues to represent the most promising step towards peace. This is why the European Union believes that the parties must, once again, seek a settlement on bases which, in our view, should preferably maintain the Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina where they can live together. However, it is not for us to make that final decision.

In order to give the negotiation all its chances, the parties must maintain or establish the margins necessary for manoeuvring. We will return to this subject this afternoon with each party. At this time, however, I would like to discuss the major points of our plan of action.

- As for the Serb side, we expect that it will make the necessary territorial concessions to meet, in a same order of magnitude, the demands of Bosnia as expressed the day before the meeting aboard the HMS Invincible.

- As for the Bosnian Government, we expect it to confirm that these territorial claims are of the same order of magnitude and that, from its point of view, they continue to constitute the outlines of a peace agreement.

- As for the Croatian side, we expect it to maintain the concessions it has made regarding access to the sea and port facilities and that it will display a constructive attitude in the negotiations.

Serbs and Croats must also decide on a modus vivendi in the Croatian territories under UNPROFOR mandate. By this I mean a cease-fire, the withdrawal of Croatian forces from territories occupied in January 1993, and confidence measures in accordance with Security Council resolutions. Once again, this is only an intermediary step towards a final solution, justifying the legitimate claims of Croatia to its territory and the hopes of the Serbs for wide autonomy.

All these issues shall, without delay, be finalized at the negotiating table. The negotiators themselves will proceed on the basis of our plan of action.

Should negotiations on these bases be concluded, the European Union and, I believe, the international community would not lag behind. Indeed, our plan of action provides for a series of positive measures.

- Should the Serb side conclude an agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the bases I have just outlined, should it accept a modus vivendi in zones in Croatia protected by the United Nations, and should it cooperate in good faith in implementation of both, then the European Union will act in favour of a progressive and conditional lifting of the sanctions in line with the implementation, the ultimate goal being their eventual final removal when the Security Council is convinced that the implementation is lasting.

- Once the Bosnian parties have concluded the peace agreement of which I have spoken, it is certain then that the European Union - and of this I am certain - the international community will lend all their assistance to see that it is effectively implemented, as with the reconstruction that will accompany it.

- Should the Croatian Government accept the modus vivendi, the European Union would be ready to expand its cooperation with Croatia and to increase its economic assistance. However, any recourse to military action would be certain to give rise to negative measures on the part of the international community.

We are well aware of the seriousness of the humanitarian situation at the onset of early winter which we are experiencing. Survival of the populations depends on unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid.

We view the agreement that Mrs. Ogata concluded on 18 November with the Bosnian parties as an essential acquisition, but also a starting-point. We are pleased to note that, for the time being, the agreement appears to be having an effect. We believe, however, that the parties should seize the opportunity of this meeting to ratify the agreement which they have concluded and to extend it in two respects:

- Besides the question of practical measures to be adopted to establish protected routes, the reopening of the Tuzla airport is of critical importance for the delivery of humanitarian aid. It goes without saying that the airport could not be used for other purposes. We are ready to provide a significant number of the 50 specialists required to restore it into working order.

- The European Union also expects that the parties will agree to consider, henceforth, the supply of fuels as part of humanitarian aid.

Delivery of humanitarian aid has encountered too often and continues to encounter so-called obstacles in the field. The parties claim that they do not control all the factors, armed or not, which are causing these impediments. This is why the European Union hopes that UNPROFOR commanders will be able to make use, in the most effective way, of all suitable means, including air power, to counter those uncontrolled elements, as stipulated in the relevant Security Council resolutions.

We are of the view that this clearly does not entail joining in battle with the parties present; instead, it ensures fulfilment of the commitments they have made, including those at the local level. We hold the parties directly responsible for fulfilling their commitments.

To conclude on this subject, I propose that, following this plenary session, the military leaders should meet with Mrs. Ogata and with Generals Cot and Briquemont to examine practical measures to be adopted for ensuring the delivery of humanitarian aid, with the utmost efficiency and in complete security.

Our plan of action is not limited to the most immediate problems, even though the comprehensive solution depends inevitably on their settlement. Our plan is aimed at achieving, step by step, an overall settlement of the crisis in the former Yugoslavia.

Should the parties specifically demonstrate their desire to conclude on the bases we have just outlined, a new conference should be convened on the model of the London conference to confirm the outcome, ensure its implementation, begin the reconstruction of the destroyed territories and give new momentum to resolving remaining problems. That would involve, for the most part, determining a definitive status for the Croatian territories under UNPROFOR mandate and ensuring, within the bounds of international frontiers, the rights of nationalities and ethnic minorities, particularly in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina.

At the end of this process, a final conference would endorse the overall solution to the problems of the former Yugoslavia and would signal the full integration of Serbia-Montenegro to the international community.

These are the main points of the plan of action devised by the European Union in an attempt to find lasting solutions to a conflict whose prolongation brought shame on all Europeans, just as ourselves.

Confronted with this humanitarian catastrophe, we expect that the parties, faced with their responsibilities, will return immediately to the negotiating

table here in Geneva, and that they will cooperate in good faith with the co-chairmen to find an immediate peaceful solution for Bosnia and a modus vivendi in the Croatian territories under the UNPROFOR mandate. The international community would fail to understand it if the parties did not seize the opportunity offered here to put an end to this tragedy.

The European Union is ready to put all of its political and economic weight into the balance and to help them - in so far as they truly desire it - to achieve the peaceful and cooperative solutions that the populations have too long been denied.

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Security Council

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S/26835
2 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 DECEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Recalling the Council's presidential statement of 28 October 1993 (S/26661) and the Council's request that the Secretary-General "submit as soon as possible a complete report on the responsibility for these acts [in Stupni Do]", I wish to draw your attention to equally disturbing violations of international humanitarian law by extremist Bosnian Muslim elements that have yet to be investigated by the Special Rapporteur on human rights in the former Yugoslavia or considered by the Council.

There is compelling evidence that extremist Bosnian Muslim elements may have committed 6 massacres of Bosnian Croat civilians over the past five months: 15 civilians were burned on top of "Soko" factory in Mostar on 15 July; 37 civilians were massacred in Doljani (Jablanica) on 27 July, where 190 civilians were taken prisoner and their whereabouts are still unknown; 43 civilians were massacred in Kiseljak (Zepce) on 16 August; 29 civilians were massacred in Uzdol (Prozor) on 14 September; 25 civilians were massacred in Grabavica (Mostar) on 25 September, and an unknown number of civilians were massacred in Kopijari (Vares) on 21 October. Furthermore, we have numerous reports of summary executions of both civilians and prisoners-of-war by extremist Bosnian Muslim elements, most recently, the summary execution of 19 soldiers in Bugojno on 1 November. Evidence on some of these incidents has already been submitted to the Council in documents S/26378 and S/26617.

I am compelled to bring this to the Council's attention as it is the belief of my Government that the parties to the conflict in central Bosnia may not be being held to the same standards. It is the view of my Government that international humanitarian law cannot be compromised by political or media pressure. Stupni Do and Ahmici are deplorable crimes that cannot be condoned, and the Council was rightful in expressing its condemnation and calling for a report in this regard.

We respectfully ask the Council and the Special Rapporteur, however, not to, in any case, condone the violations of international humanitarian law when they are committed against the Bosnian Croat civilians and prisoners-of-war. We believe that deep respect for international humanitarian law reaches beyond the Bosnia and Herzegovina conflict and should be addressed in this way.

May I request your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ambassador Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly
Security Council

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GENERAL

A/48/711
S/26836
2 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Agenda items 26 and 79
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 2 December 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of an intervention by Mr. Hassan A. Hassanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic, at the meeting of the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, at Rome on 30 November 1993 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 26 and 79, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan before the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe at Rome on 30 November 1993

I would like to express my gratitude to the Italian Government for its hospitality and excellent organization of this round of the CSCE Council.

The main goal of my intervention is to draw the attention of my distinguished colleagues to the facts of aggression of the Republic of Armenia against Azerbaijan. The core of the conflict is that Armenia, being an aggressor-state, takes advantage of the ethnic group of Armenians living on the territory of Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and makes use of it as an instrument of separatism and annexation of our territory. It is obvious that aggression can not be and should not be left unpunished.

As a result of its aggression against Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, seeking to set up a certain " Great Armenia", i.e. to restore mythic two-thousand-year-old borders, has seized more than 20 % of Azerbaijani territories. As a result of "ethnic cleansing" policy conducted by Armenian armed forces more than 18 thousand people were killed, about 50 thousand got wounded or became disabled , 4 thousand are either taken prisoner or hostage, about one million of Azerbaijanians have become refugees in their own country; all the Azerbaijanians have been ousted from all the occupied territories being faced up with the threat of extermination; 88 thousand dwelling houses, more than one thousand economic enterprises, more than 250 schools, 250 medical establishments have been destroyed or burned down. The

damage caused to Azerbaijan is estimated at billions of US dollars. I would like to express the gratitude to the CSCE Member-States for the humanitarian assistance rendered to tens of thousands of our refugees.

The following facts testify of Armenia's full political and military involvement in its aggression against Azerbaijan. I would like to give only a few examples:

- on December 1,1989 a decision was passed by the Parliament of Armenia "On unification of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh" which has not up until now been cancelled and which contradicts the norms of the international law;

- in 1990 on the territory of Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan illegally were held the elections to the Parliament of Armenia, 12 members of which had been elected on the territory of Azerbaijan;

- the Parliament of Armenia passed a decision not to recognize any normative act where Nagorno Karabakh is rendered as a part of Azerbaijan;

- proclaiming its sovereignty Armenia illegally inserted in the Declaration the territory of Nagorno Karabakh of the Azerbaijan Republic;

- it is a member of the Parliament of Armenia that is now at the head of the so-called "Council for Defense" of Nagorno Karabakh;

- current Minister of Defense of Armenia is a person who until recently was in charge of military formations of Nagorno Karabakh separatists;

- it has been proved that the villages of the Kazakh region of Azerbaijan had been occupied directly from the territory of Armenia.

I have mentioned only some of undeniable facts and I would ask that they were reflected in the CSCE documents and taken into consideration by the CSCE Member-States.

With its behavior Armenia openly defies the international community nipping in the bud all attempts for peaceful political resolution of the conflict. Suffice to give just several examples. At the dawn of

implementation of Russian and Kazakhstan initiative on settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict in February of 1992 the Armenian side seized the Azerbaijani town of Khodjaly where more than 800 peaceful civilians had been exterminated;

- after Azerbaijan and Armenia have become members of the UN and CSCE the Republic of Armenia ,playing the hypocrite and proclaiming its adherence to the Charter and Principles of these organizations, has seized the Azerbaijani city of Shusha;

- while the UN fact-finding mission was in the region to look into this issue the Lachin region of Azerbaijan was occupied by Armenia;

- during informal consultations of "The Five" in Geneva Armenia seized the Kelbajar region of Azerbaijan;

- in the wake of the visit to the region of the Chairman of the Minsk Conference Mr.Mario Raffaelli Armenia captured the Agdam region of Azerbaijan;

- following the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 853 demanding the unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan Armenia annexed the Fizuli region of Azerbaijan;

- in the course of the visit of the CSCE Chairman-in-Office Mrs.Margareta af Ugglas to the region Armenia occupied the Zangelan region of Azerbaijan;

- and, finally, most recently, on November 24, just several days after the signature of the last "Timetable of urgent steps" submitted by the Minsk Group, Armenia seized the zone of the Khudaferin bridge of Azerbaijan having taken control over 161 km of the frontier between Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I have given the examples of methods used by Armenia to torpedo the implementation of the Security Council Resolutions and earlier signed Timetables of the Minsk Group.

The principal direction of the Minsk Group activities was defined as the elimination of all the consequences of the Armenian

aggression. However, afterwards, the CSCE did not find enough political will and resoluteness in order to properly respond to the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and, moreover, followed lead of the Armenian scenario.

The more Armenian side occupies the Azerbaijani territories the more we feel pressure and the more we are demanded to make concessions. The more Armenia proceeds with "ethnic cleansing" the more we are proposed unacceptable decisions. The more Azerbaijanians become refugees, the more the demands of the UN SC on withdrawal of Armenian forces from the Azerbaijani territories fall into oblivion, as do the UN Charter and the CSCE Principles.

Having condemned in June of 1992 the seizure of Shusha and Lachin and having urged the immediate withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the occupied Azerbaijani territories, the Minsk Group has very soon lost sight of its own principal decisions. It started to talk about "the vital importance" of the Lachin region for the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh turning the blind eye to the fact that the so-called "humanitarian corridor" is still being utilized as the main thoroughfare of military deliveries from the territory of the Republic of Armenia. At that time Armenia did not find a common accord, but after it had occupied new territories of Azerbaijan it was decided to concede to Armenia. The scheme, thrusted today upon Azerbaijan, I mean the one elaborated by nine countries of the Minsk Group, in accordance with which the issues of Shusha and Lachin are being put off until the Minsk Conference, is unacceptable because such variant is aimed at exerting pressure on and blackmailing the Azerbaijan Republic in order to provide the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh with a non-constitutional status and, to be more correct, at elevating the level of the Armenian "interested party" of Nagorno Karabakh region to a full-right "party" in the negotiation process and debarring gradually the Azerbaijanian "interested party" from equal participation in the comprehensive settlement of the conflict. The Minsk Group illegitimately exaggerates the political significance of direct contacts of the Azerbaijani Government with the representatives of the Armenian community of Nagorno Karabakh, evaluating them as the recognition of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh as a "party to the conflict" thus complicating the contacts of the Government of a sovereign state with its citizens.

The representatives of the Armenian community of Nagorno Karabakh claim that their recognition as a "party to the conflict" is understood by them as the recognition of their "international-legal status". Comment is superfluous.

Ignoring the unreserved character of the demands of the UN SC resolutions the Minsk Group conditioned the withdrawal of troops of the Republic of Armenia by putting forward numerous and ambigious demands to the Azerbaijani side that are aimed at appeasing the ever-growing ambitions of the Armenian side.

Does that mean that one can apply the policy of "double standard" with respect to the member-states? Does that mean that the European Conference reserves for the separatist forces inside the states the right for choosing the means, including armed activities, for the realization of their goals? Finally, does that mean that the CSCE recognizes the right of rude force? Is not the tragic experience of the history of wars and conflicts enough to understand the inadmissible character of political games around the Declaration of Principles of the CSCE? Are there any guarantees that all this would not affect the interests of all countries and would not lead, in the long run, to the complete collapse of existing world order? We believe that the CSCE should take sides neither with Azerbaijan nor with Armenia. CSCE should respect its own Principles recognized by all member-states.

One has to rule out the biased interpretation and distortion of our position . Azerbaijan is often accused because of its "tough" position. I would like to throw light on the real situation in this issue.

The demand to give the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh the status of a "party" which contradicts the mandate of the Minsk Conference; the demand to ensure the residence in Nagorno Karabakh of 100 thousand of Armenians at the cost of the expulsion of 50 thousand of Azerbaijanians; the demand on unilateral demilitarization of all the Azerbaijani territories around Nagorno Karabakh; passing over in silence the fate of Shusha and Lachin and the utilization of these territories for the arms deliveries from Armenia are claimed as being a "necessary compromise" and constructive approach in peaceful settlement of the conflict.

On the other hand, our proposal concerning the respect of the status of Azerbaijanians of Nagorno Karabakh in the negociating process, the return of 50 thousand Azerbaijanian refugees to Nagorno Karabakh, the withdrawal of troops of the Republic of Armenia from all the occupied territories, the return of one illion of refugees to their homes and the restoration of territorial integrity of Azerbaijan are qualified as a "tough" approach and absence of flexibility.

I want to inform you that we are dealing here with obvious mistification of the international scale. The question is that many are inclined to consider the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh as having the status of a waring party taking the mistification for the reality. In reality, a small group of Armenians living in the mountainous region without proper industry and substantial ressources can not defeat the industrial country with the population of 7 million having occupied more than 20 percent of its territory. This is a complete military-political absurd.

We, certainly, highly appreciate the efforts of the Minsk Group and we would be ready to sign a Timetable facilitating the settlement of the conflict on the basis of respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Despite the difficult situation created as a result of the aggression of Armenia Azerbaijan continues to pursue the way of democratization of society, development of political pluralism, strengthening of the rule of law, human rights and, in particular, rights of national minorities.

We appeal to all CSCE Participating States to regard with understanding our problems, our needs, our anxiety for the fate of our state , our land, our people. I wish each country while reflecting on the ways of settlement of the bloody conflict could remember its own history, the vicissitudes of its own fate.

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3 December 1993
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ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 3 DECEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

You will find herewith the reply of Mr. Alain Juppé, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, to the letter which was addressed to him by Mr. Omar Mountasser, Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the text of the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMEE

Annex

LETTER DATED 2 DECEMBER 1993 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY OF THE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE OF THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU FOR FOREIGN LIAISON AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

I thank you for the mail which you kindly delivered to our Ambassador in Tripoli. I assure you that it is the will of the French authorities to obtain a reply from Libya to the requests formulated by the French Judiciary and of which the Libyan Judiciary is fully informed.

The content of your letter was transmitted by me to the French examining judge. The French authorities continue to hope that Libya will give its entire cooperation to the French Judiciary in full respect of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Rest assured that the French authorities are determined to do everything possible to arrive at a judicial solution which administers justice to the victims and ensures respect for the legitimate rights of their families.

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3 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 1 DECEMBER 1993 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the senior-level staffing of the United Nations peacemaking and peace-keeping efforts related to the former Yugoslavia.

Last May, Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg was appointed as both my Special Representative and Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. At that time it was hoped that the Vance-Owen Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina would shortly be agreed and that thereafter the main focus of United Nations activities in the former Yugoslavia would be implementation of that Plan on the ground, together with continuing efforts to implement the Vance Plan related to the United Nations Protected Areas in Croatia.

However, as the members of the Security Council are aware, the Vance-Owen Plan was not accepted and Mr. Stoltenberg remains heavily engaged in continuing negotiations. This leaves him insufficient time to carry out in full the functions of Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief of Mission of UNPROFOR.

Accordingly, and after consulting Mr. Stoltenberg and contacting the Heads of Government and other parties directly concerned in the former Yugoslavia, I have come to the conclusion that the resumption of negotiations in Geneva, following the meeting there between the Foreign Ministers of the European Union, the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the Conference and the parties on 29 November 1993, makes it necessary to separate the functions of Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee and Special Representative.

It is my intention that Mr. Stoltenberg should continue to serve as Co-Chairman and that Mr. Yasushi Akashi, until recently my Special Representative for Cambodia, should be appointed to the post of Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia and Chief of Mission of UNPROFOR. I have so informed the Heads of Government and other parties directly concerned in the former Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council. Meanwhile, I shall make the necessary budgetary arrangements.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

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3 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 DECEMBER 1993 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 1 December 1993 (S/26838) concerning the staffing of the United Nations peace-keeping and peacemaking efforts in the former Yugoslavia has been brought to the attention of the members of the Council. They take note of the information contained in your letter and agree with the proposal mentioned therein.

(Signed) Li ZHAOXING
President of the Security Council

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
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STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 2 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter, dated 2 December 1993, containing the statement made by His Majesty the King of Morocco to the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which assembled in Rome: the statement was read out by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the text of the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 77, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI

ANNEX

Statement of His Majesty the King of Morocco to the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

It is a great pleasure for us to address the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, united for their fourth session.

We welcome, for more than one reason, the decision of your distinguished body to include Morocco, to a greater extent, in its different activities and, in particular, at the ministerial conference.

Morocco, which is actually very close to Europe, has a permanent interest in that continent and is greatly concerned about the changes occurring there. Moreover, it maintains strong and diversified ties with the majority of the European countries, of which the Mediterranean is the main carrier.

Modern Morocco is the result of an intermixing, peaceful or hostile contacts, and political, cultural and intellectual contributions, primarily from the different points of the Mediterranean which have shaped its landscape and fashioned its philosophy.

Nature has also intended for Morocco, together with Spain, to be the guardian of the Strait of Gibraltar, the key to the Mediterranean. A strategic spot of the utmost importance, the Strait has also been the starting point of the discovery and the contact between different continents. The influence of the mare nostrum, cherished by the Latins, and the legacy it has left us over time have been the eternal concern of countless intersected civilizations.

However, the Strait of Gibraltar is also synonymous with responsibility as regards security, particularly in the Western Mediterranean. Despite its position at the extreme western tip of the Mediterranean, Morocco continues to be concerned about the entire region, which it views as indivisible. It is from this point of view that we have always maintained a particular and continued interest in the eastern part of the region, a troubled area if ever there was one.

Since the end of the Second World War the international community has witnessed, at times powerless, acute tensions, direct conflicts and upheavals which are a source of instability in the region and a matter of concern throughout the world.

This is why we have continually advocated dialogue and settlement of conflicts by peaceful means, in all circumstances and regardless of whom we are addressing. Thus, armed with this philosophy, Morocco supports the peace process under way in the Middle East and continues to give it the priority it deserves.

We also nourish the hope that with the efforts and support of all involved, we will reach a comprehensive and fair solution for all of the countries of the region.

The Mediterranean could then once again become a traditional place of interchange, interpenetrations and movements of all kinds which have made it so rich.

Yet, it would be an illusion to believe that peace in the Middle East and in the Balkans would alone make it possible to reach that goal. Parallel efforts must also be devoted to addressing the increasing and ponderous disparities that exist throughout the Mediterranean.

The profound disproportions between the two coasts, the cultural gaps which have led to today's mutual incomprehension, the contrasts of all types have assuredly engendered a range of problems, all of which, however, are elements of instability. These problems must be corrected immediately, not as they relate to the current situation, but at their very origin, namely the unequal development in the Mediterranean region.

We must bear in mind that today more than ever before, the established interdependence of interests and economies calls for a continual and renewed search for new avenues of dialogue and cooperation. Then we will be able to give full meaning to the expression: Mediterranean, Lake of Peace.

Our hopes for peace, security, harmony, development and understanding are not overambitious, but they do require true collective awareness and the development of far-reaching joint action.

Therefore, the Kingdom of Morocco invites all countries bordering the Mediterranean and all others, which for one reason or another take interest in the future of this sensitive region, to meet on its soil so as to reflect together on these various issues and crucial problems that we face.

It would be an honour for Morocco to host such a conference at the ministerial level. The specific objectives and formats of such a conference could be determined through appropriate consultations.

In anticipation of this meeting, that we hope will occur in the near future, we wish you the greatest success in your work.

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S/26841
5 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 DECEMBER 1993 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication dated 26 November 1993 (S/26811).

You thereby sent me the letter addressed to me by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, which conveys to me unconditional acknowledgement of Iraq's obligations under resolution 715 (1991).

The members of the Council welcome this development. They will continue to follow closely Iraq's cooperation with the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as they carry out the plans for ongoing monitoring and verification over a sustained period.

(Signed) LI Zhaoxing
President of the Security Council

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S/26842
5 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 DECEMBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you of my country's observations following the fourth meeting of the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which took place in Rome on 30 November and 1 December 1993.

Aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the Azerbaijani Republic was one of the agenda items of the meeting. The Council was expected to take some crucial decisions concerning the situation. It was hoped that these would play an important role in the negotiations process and would lead to the implementation of relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council.

The Republic of Armenia, however, maintained an unconstructive position at the meeting and it broke the CSCE consensus by refusing to acknowledge the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic and by opposing the unanimous decision of the CSCE participating States.

This action by the Republic of Armenia reaffirms its unwillingness to enter into constructive dialogue and its full ignorance of the fundamental principles of international law. It is further evidence of its pursuit of a policy of aggression with the aim of annexing Azerbaijani territory.

The Azerbaijani side repeats its conviction that, unless the international community, through the United Nations, condemns the invasive actions of Armenia, the latter will continue with impunity its aggression against Azerbaijan, thereby violating international peace and security in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission

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